

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel claims 25-34 without prejudice.

Please amend the claims as follows:

Sub 17

a1

1. (Original) An apparatus for positioning a tong, comprising:  
a single cantilevered extendable structure, the tong attached to one end of the extendable structure;  
a piston and cylinder assembly for extending or retracting the extendable structure; and  
a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable structure.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the extendable structure is telescopic.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a vertical axis.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a horizontal axis.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the telescopically extendable structure comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the telescopically extendable structure further comprises an intermediate barrel.
7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 6, wherein at least a portion of the inner barrel is slidably mounted in the intermediate barrel and at least a portion of the intermediate barrel is slidably mounted in the outer barrel.

SUB/

8. (Original) ~~The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:~~

~~a base; and~~

~~a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the outer barrel is disposed on the carriage.~~

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the tong is movably attached to the inner barrel.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a clamp assembly for securing the outer barrel to the carriage.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the outer barrel is movable between a first position and a second position relative to the carriage.

a1

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:

a base; and

a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the extendable structure is disposed on the carriage.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a clamping assembly for securing the extendable structure to the carriage.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the clamping assembly is releasably connected to the carriage.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.

36B17 16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the extendable structure further comprises an intermediate barrel.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein at least a portion of the inner barrel is slidably mounted in the intermediate barrel and at least a portion of the intermediate barrel is slidably mounted in the outer barrel.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a vertical axis.

19. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, wherein the extendable structure is pivotable about a horizontal axis.

ai 20. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a motor actuable to adjust the position of the extendable structure with respect to said mounting assembly.

21. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly has two stages.

22. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is at least partially disposed on the extendable structure.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 21, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is used to move the extendable structure horizontally.

24. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tong is movably attached to the extendable structure.

25-34. (Cancelled without prejudice).

SUB 17

35. (Original) An apparatus for positioning a tong, comprising:  
a single cantilevered extendable structure, the extendable structure having a variable length and the tong attached to one end of the extendable structure;  
a motive assembly for changing the length of the extendable structure; and  
a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable structure.

a1

36. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the tong is movably attached.

37. (Original) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the motive assembly comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

Please add the following new claims:

SUB 17

38. (New) An apparatus for positioning a tong, comprising:  
a single extendable boom, the tong attached to one end of the extendable boom;  
a piston and cylinder assembly for extending or retracting the extendable boom;  
and  
a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable boom.

12

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the extendable boom is telescopic.

40. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the extendable boom is pivotable about a vertical axis.

41. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the extendable boom is pivotable about a horizontal axis.

42. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the telescopically extendable boom comprises an outer barrel and an inner barrel.

Sub 17  
43. (New) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein the telescopically extendable boom further comprises an intermediate barrel.

44. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the mounting assembly comprises:  
a base; and  
a carriage pivotally attached to the base, wherein a portion of the extendable boom is disposed on the carriage.

45. (New) The apparatus of claim 44, further comprising a clamping assembly for securing the extendable boom to the carriage.

46. (New) The apparatus of claim 45, wherein the clamping assembly is releasably connected to the carriage.

47. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, further comprising a motor actuatable to adjust the position of the extendable boom with respect to said mounting assembly.

48. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is at least partially disposed on the extendable boom.

49. (New) The apparatus of claim 38, wherein the piston and cylinder assembly is used to move the extendable boom horizontally.

50. (New) An apparatus for positioning a tong, comprising:  
a single extendable beam, the extendable beam having a variable length and the tong attached to one end of the extendable beam;  
a motive assembly for changing the length of the extendable beam; and  
a mounting assembly coupled to an opposite end of the extendable beam.

51. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the tong is movably attached.

Sub B17

52. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the motive assembly comprise a piston and cylinder assembly.

53. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam is movable in at least two planes.

54. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam is slidable along the mounting assembly between a first position and a second position.

55. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam is movable in at least two planes.

56. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam is slidable along the mounting assembly between a first position and a second position.

57. (New) The apparatus of claim 50, wherein the extendable beam is telescopic.

AR

58. (New) A method of positioning a tong, comprising:  
providing a single extendable beam having a variable length;  
attaching the tong to a first end of the extendable beam;  
coupling a second end of the extendable beam to a mounting assembly; and  
moving the tong from a first position to a second position.

59. (New) The method of claim 58, wherein the extendable beam is telescopic.